

Message Text

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TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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TAGS: PFOR, US, RH, UK

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON GUARANTEES TO WHITE RHODESIANS

1. NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT BERNARD WEINRAUB, REPORTING FROM LONDON THIS WEEK, SAID U.S. AND BRITAIN QUIETLY SHAPING JOINT POLICY THAT ASSURES FINANCIAL AID AND PROPERTY GUARANTEES TO WHITE MINORITY IN RHODESIA. PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO OFFER CONCRETE GUARANTEES TO WHITES WHO WANT TO REMAIN IN RHODESIA OR TO LEAVE IN ADVANCE OF BLACK RULE, HE SAID.

2. WEINRAUB ARTICLE AND OTHER SPECULATIVE PIECES IN BRITISH, AMERICAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN PAPERS TOUCHED OFF NUMEROUS PRESS QUERIES AT DEPARTMENT BRIEFINGS THIS WEEK. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS OF JULY 20 BRIEFING: (BEGIN QUOTES)

3. Q: IT IS REPORTED OUT OF LONDON THIS MORNING THAT U.S. AND BRITAIN ARE CONSIDERING GUARANTEES TO RHODESIAN WHITES IN SPECIFIC TERMS AS BANK GUARANTEES, LAND GUARANTEES, GUARANTEED PENSION RIGHTS TO WHITE MINORITIES IN RHODESIA. ANY COMMENT?

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A: I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THIS PARTICULAR REPORT.

BUT I WOULD RECALL THAT BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN PUT FORWARD PROPOSAL LAST MARCH ABOUT RHODESIA WHICH WE SUPPORTED PUBLICLY. WE WELCOMED IT AND WE DESCRIBED IT AS MOST CONSTRUCTIVE. AND WE HAVE HAD SOME EXPLORATORY TALKS ABOUT CALLAGHAN PROPOSAL, BUT NOTHING CONCRETE HAS AS YET DEVELOPED.

Q: I WASN'T ASKING ABOUT CALLAGHAN PROPOSAL. I WAS ASKING YOU SPECIFICALLY -- CALLAGHAN PROPOSAL CONCERNS TURNOVER OF GOVERNMENT -- WHAT I WAS ASKING YOU ABOUT WAS GUARANTEES FOR WHITE MINORITY IN RELATION TO TURNOVER OF GOVERNMENT. AND YOU HAD ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE IN AFRICA.....

A: WE ARE JUST NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE SUBSTANCE OR DETAILS OF MR. SCHAUFLE'S DISCUSSIONS JUST AS WE WERE NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE THEM OF SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS WITH MR. VORSTER. THERE IS PROCESS IN MOTION. MR. SCHAUFLE WAS IN AFRICA FOLLOWING SECRETARY'S MEETING. HE HAS NOW REPORTED TO SECRETARY AND WE ARE DISCUSSING NEXT STEP TO BE TAKEN WITH INTERESTED PARTIES.

Q: WOULD IT BE FAIR TO CHARACTERIZE THIS AS PRELIMINARY KIND OF EXPLORATION SIMILAR TO SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY THAT SECRETARY ENGAGED IN BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAEL, TO TRY TO DETERMINE WHAT POINTS OF PARALLEL MOVEMENT THERE MIGHT BE?

A: I HESITATE TO DRAW PARALLEL BETWEEN TWO DIFFERENT SITUATIONS. THERE IS CONSISTENT LINE, I THINK, BEING FOLLOWED FROM SECRETARY'S VISIT TO AFRICA, HIS SPEECH IN LUSAKA, TALKS WE HAVE HAD SINCE THEN, MEETINGS WITH MR. VORSTER, AND MR. SCHAUFLE'S VISIT -- AND NOW WE ARE CONTINUING THESE TALKS.

Q: DOES U.S. FIND THAT AFRICAN LEADERS TO WHOM IT IS TALKING ARE PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH PROLONGED EXPLORATION IN THIS DIRECTION?

A: LET'S SPEAK FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. WE HAVE SAID THAT THERE IS TIME LIMIT AND THAT THERE CANNOT BE PRO-UNCLASSIFIED

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LONGED EXPLORATION.

Q: WHAT IS TIME LIMIT?

A: I THINK CALLAGHAN PROPOSAL -- HE DEFINED TIME FRAME AS 18 MONTHS TO TWO YEARS, AS I RECALL. AND WE ACCEPT THAT.

Q: WELL, 18 MONTHS TO TWO YEARS OF CONVERSATIONS ABOUT IT. THAT WAS FOR ACTUAL PLAN TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT.

A: THAT IS CORRECT.

Q: BUT WHAT IS TIME LIMIT ON DISCUSSIONS? IS IT CONVENING OF UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SEPTEMBER?

A: I DO NOT KNOW WHAT TIME FRAME IS. AS YOU CAN SEE FROM WAY WE HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING THIS, WE HAVE BEEN MOVING RIGHT ALONG, THAT WE ARE NOT DELAYING IT.

Q: YOU ARE "MOVING RIGHT ALONG" -- I AM TRYING TO FIND OUT WHERE, THOUGH.

A: MOVING TOWARDS PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF RHODESIAN QUESTION.

Q: WOULD YOU SAY THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN THESE DISCUSSIONS?

A: I THINK FOR THE MOMENT I WOULD LIMIT IT TO THE WAY WE HAVE BEEN SAYING IT -- WHICH IS THAT THERE IS PROCESS IN MOTION AND IT IS CONTINUING.

Q: IT IS BEING REPORTED IN SOUTH AFRICA THAT DATE IS VIRTUALLY SET FOR NEXT MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND PRIME MINISTER VORSTER.

A: THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER REPORTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA WHICH HAVE DENIED THIS. FACT OF MATTER IS THAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR SECOND MEETING.

Q: IS SECOND MEETING OR ANOTHER MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND VORSTER UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR NEXT TRIP HE HAS PLANNED ABROAD?

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TARY KISSINGER AND VORSTER UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR NEXT TRIP HE HAS PLANNED ABROAD?

A: I THINK IT IS PREMATURE TO SPECULATE ON THAT. WHEN MR. VORSTER AND SECRETARY MET IN GERMANY, THEY SAID THAT WE WOULD REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT. AND WE HAVE REMAINED IN CLOSE CONTACT. WE NOW HAVE HAD SCHAUFELI VISIT AND WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING HIS FINDINGS, WE ARE DISCUSSING NEXT STEPS, AND WE ARE JUST NOT IN POSITION TO SAY --

Q: HOW PREMATURE CAN IT BE? SECRETARY IS SUPPOSED TO BE GOING TO IRAN ON AUGUST 5 AND 6. THAT IS ONLY TWO WEEKS AWAY.

A: VISIT TO IRAN AND HIS PRESENCE THERE AND HIS HOPES

TO ATTEND JOINT COMMISSION MEETING HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH SOUTHERN AFRICA. IT HAS TO DO WITH IRAN.

Q: UNLESS HE MEETS MR. VORSTER ON SAME TRIP.

A: YOU KNOW, IT IS NOT SCHEDULING THAT IS PROBLEM. IT'S SUBSTANCE OF PROBLEM WHICH CONCERNS US....

Q: HOW WAS THE U.S. COMMUNICATING WITH RHODESIA THROUGHOUT ALL THIS?

A: WE HAVE NOT HAD ANY DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH RHODESIA....

Q: WE WOULD LIKE TO FOCUS ON SUBSTANCE BUT YOU REFUSE TO EXPLORE SUBSTANCE.

A: FOR VERY GOOD REASON. THIS IS VERY DELICATE AND COMPLICATED PROBLEM WHICH WE ARE TRYING TO HELP SOLVE. AND WE ARE JUST NOT ABLE TO DISCUSS ALL OF THIS PUBLICLY AT THIS POINT....

Q: WHAT ACTION HAS U.S. GOVERNMENT TAKEN TO REPEAL BYRD AMENDMENT SINCE SECRETARY SPOKE IN LUSAKA?

A: I KNOW THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERATION OF THAT ISSUE
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BETWEEN WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS, BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHAT SORT OF TIMETABLE IS PLANNED. BUT ADMINISTRATION REMAINS COMMITTED TO REPEAL OF BYRD AMENDMENT.

Q: DOES ADMINISTRATION STILL HOLD TO PROSPECT OF REPEAL OF BYRD AMENDMENT IN THIS SESSION OF CONGRESS?

A: I AM NOT SURE. I KNOW WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO IT, BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHAT JUDGMENT IS AS TO WHEN TO MOVE ON THAT....

Q: HAVING SEEN MR. VORSTER AND HAVING SENT MR. SCHAUFLE TO AFRICA, WOULD YOU SAY SOUTH AFRICA IS AS EAGER TO SOLVE PROBLEM AS U.S. IS?

A: I THINK WE WOULD SAY AND WE BELIEVE THAT SOUTH AFRICA SHARES WITH US SAME CONCERNS ABOUT PROBLEM OF SOUTH AFRICA AND NECESSITY FOR FINDING SOLUTION. AND I THINK THIS WAS CLEAR FROM VORSTER-KISSINGER MEETINGS, AND NOTHING THAT SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE SAID SINCE THOSE MEETINGS CHANGES THAT JUDGMENT....

Q: HAVE WE ASKED, REQUESTED OR SUGGESTED TO SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THAT THEY CUT OFF ALL TRADE LINKS WITH RHODESIA?

A: I AM JUST NOT ABLE TO GO INTO ANY DETAILS OF THE PLAN -- ANY ASPECTS OF IT.

Q: SINCE YOU RAISED CALLAGHAN PROPOSAL MADE LAST MARCH, IS IT YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT PROPOSAL INVITES U.S. CONTRIBUTION OR ANY INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO FUND FOR RESETTLEMENT OF WHITE RHODESIANS WHO WISH TO LEAVE?

A: I DON'T THINK MR. CALLAGHAN GOT INTO THAT POINT.

Q: I THINK HE DID.

A: IN ANY CASE, WE HAVE MADE CLEAR OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR BOTH MAJORITY AND MINORITY RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.
ROBINSON
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